

Physics Based Approaches  
to Quantum Computing

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Conventional Quantum Computing Paradigm is a sequence of gates that are Unitary Operators

$$i \frac{d}{dt} |\psi(t)\rangle = H(t) |\psi(t)\rangle \quad \hbar=1$$

implies

$$|\psi(t_2)\rangle = U(t_2, t_1) |\psi(t_1)\rangle$$

where  $U$  is Unitary  $U^\dagger U = 1$

Physics based approach to Quantum Algorithms is Hamiltonian Based

# General Quantum Algorithm

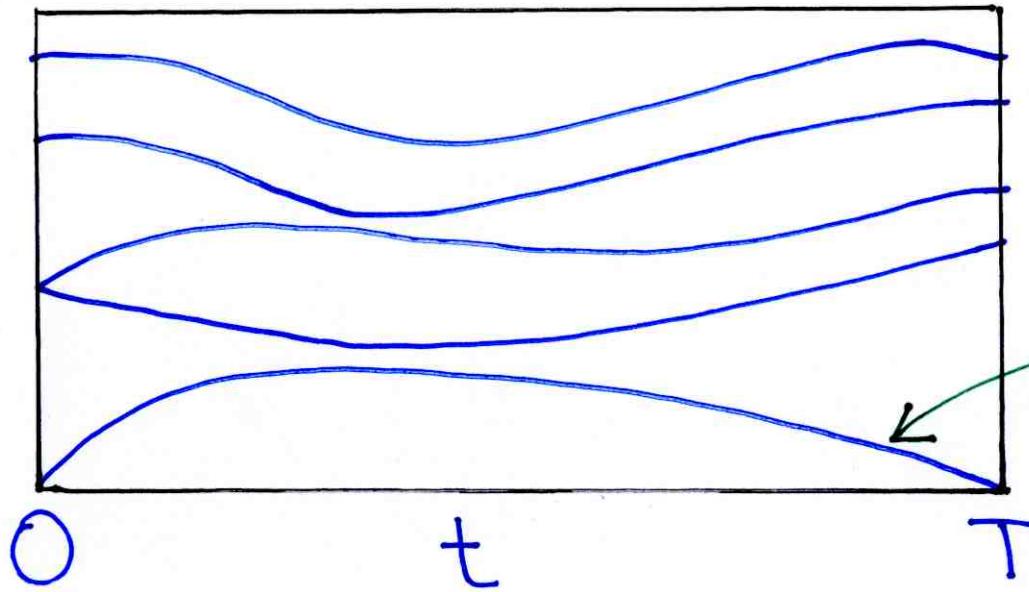
- \* Problem to solve
- \* Design  $H(t)$
- \* Pick the initial state  $|\psi(0)\rangle$
- \* Pick Run Time  $T$
- \* Evolve  $i \frac{d}{dt} |\psi(t)\rangle = H(t) |\psi(t)\rangle$
- \* Get  $|\psi(T)\rangle$
- \* Measure some operator  $\hat{O}$
- \* Result of measurement encodes solution to problem

How does  $T$  scale with problem size?

How do resources needed to build  $H$  scale with problem size?

# Time dependent Hamiltonian $H(t)$

Eigenvalues  
of  $H(t)$



ground state  
energy  
 $E_g(t)$

Instantaneous Ground State  $H(t) |E_g(t)\rangle = E_g(t) |E_g(t)\rangle$

$$i \frac{d}{dt} |\psi(t)\rangle = H(t) |\psi(t)\rangle \quad |\psi(0)\rangle = |E_g(0)\rangle$$

$|\psi(t)\rangle$  stays near  $|E_g(t)\rangle$  if  
 $H$  changes slowly enough

Adiabatic  
Theorem

# Combinatorial Search

$n$  bits       $2^n$  values  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  each  $x_i = 0, 1$

$M$  clauses      Each clause is a truth table acting on a subset of the bits.

example of a clause involving bits 7, 99 and 103  
True iff  $x_7 + x_{99} + x_{103} = 1$

## Mother of all Computational Problems

Find the assignment of the bits that minimizes the number of violated clauses

NP-hard

Considered intractable on a conventional computer

# Cost Function

Penalize violated clauses

$E(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$  = number of clauses violated  
by string  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$

If you find the global minimum of  $E$   
you solve the combinatorial  
search problem

$E$  is easy to describe but hard  
to minimize

Find minimum of cost function

$$h(z) \quad z = z_1, z_2, \dots, z_n$$

$$h(w) = 0 \quad h(z) > 0 \quad z \neq w$$

Want to find  $w$ .

Quantum Version

$$H_p = \sum_z h(z) |z\rangle$$

Want to find  $|w\rangle$ , the ground state of  $H_p$

Adiabatic designed for classical combinatorial optimization problems

$$H(s) = (1-s)H_B + sH_P \quad 0 \leq s \leq 1$$

$H_B$  is beginning Hamiltonian.

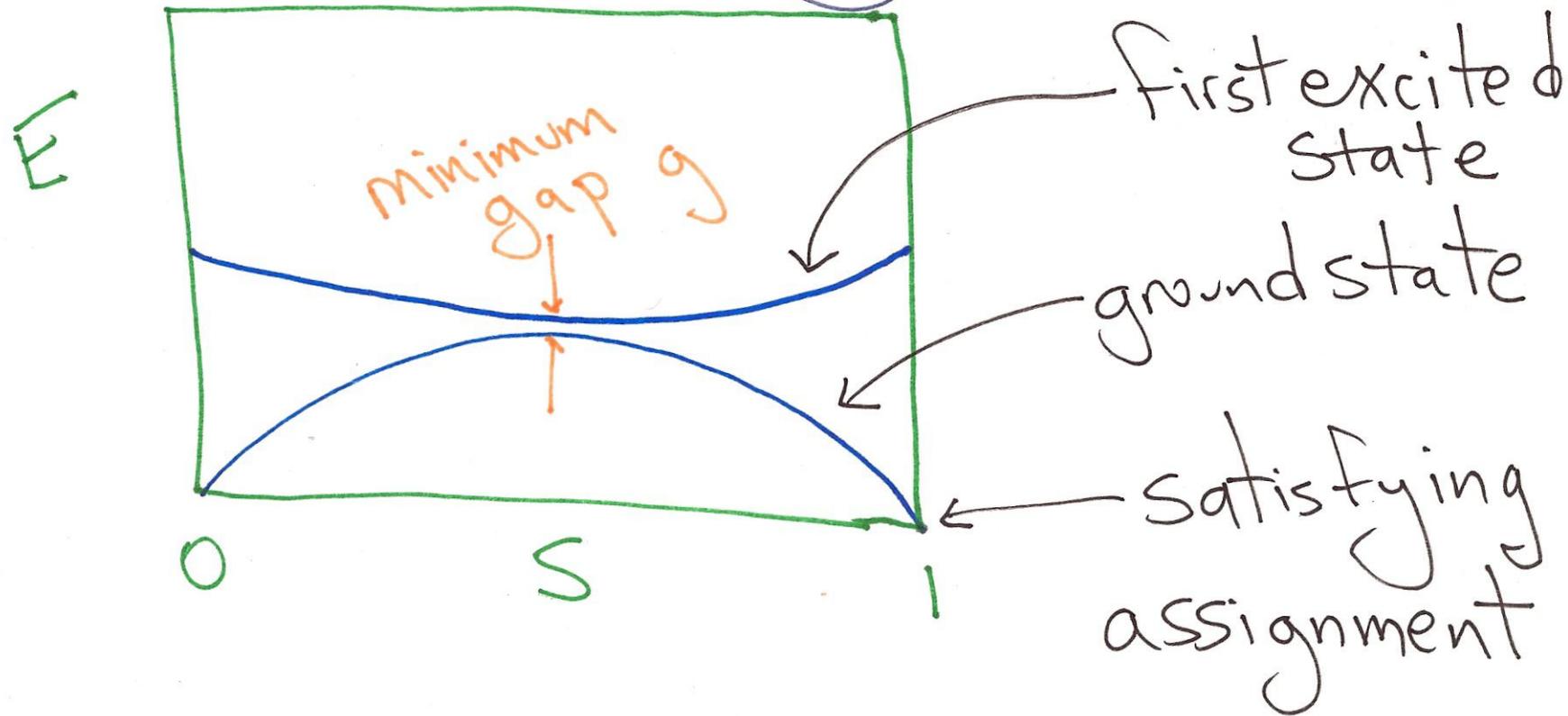
$H_P$  is instance dependent problem Hamiltonian.

Ground state of  $H_P$  encodes solution.

$$i \frac{d}{dt} |\psi(t)\rangle = H(t/T) |\psi(t)\rangle$$

$$0 \leq t \leq T$$

Run time determined by minimum gap



$$T \gtrsim \frac{1}{g^2}$$

How small is  $g$ ?

Algorithm designer designs a Hamiltonian

$$H(t) = H_D(t) + c(t) H_P$$

$$|c(t)| \leq 1$$

$$i \frac{d}{dt} |\psi(t)\rangle = H(t) |\psi(t)\rangle$$

Start in  $|\psi(0)\rangle$

Evolve for time  $T$

Success if  $|\psi(T)\rangle$  is near  $|w\rangle$

# Grover Problem: Unstructured Search

$$H_p(z) = \begin{cases} 0 & z = w \\ 1 & z \neq w \end{cases} \quad 0 \leq z \leq N-1$$
$$N = 2^n$$

Success means  $|\psi(T)\rangle = |w\rangle$  for all  $w$

then

$$T > \frac{N^{1/2}}{2}$$

Farhi 1998  
Gutmann

Based on BBBV

Information Theory  $\Rightarrow$

Linear Algebra Result

# Scrambled Cost Function

Start with  $h(z)$  which may be structured

Minimum at  $z=0$   $h(0) < h(z)$   $z=1, 2, \dots, N-1$

[ Example  $h(z) = z_1 + z_2 + \dots + z_n$   $N = 2^n$   
structured. Easy to minimize ]

Let  $\pi$  be a permutation of  $0, 1, \dots, N-1$

$$h^{[\pi]}(z) = h(\pi^{-1}(z))$$

$$w = \pi(0)$$

All structure is gone in  $h^{[\pi]}$   
Scrambled!

There are  
 $N!$  permutations  
of  $N$  things

Evolve with

$$H(t) = H_D(t) + c(t) H_{P,\pi}$$

Farhi, Goldstone  
Gutmann, Nagaj  
2005

$$H_{P,\pi} = \sum_z h^{[\pi]}(z) |z\rangle \langle z| = \sum_z h(z) |\pi(z)\rangle \langle \pi(z)|$$

Evolve for time  $T$  from some  $\pi$  independent starting  
State to  $|\psi_\pi(T)\rangle$

Success  $|\langle \psi_\pi(T) | \pi(0) \rangle|^2 \geq b$

If this occurs for a set of  $\epsilon N!$  permutations

then

$$\left\{ T \geq \frac{\epsilon^2 b}{16 h^*} (N-1)^{1/2} - \frac{(\epsilon^3/2)^{1/2}}{4 h^*} \right\}$$

$h^*$  is some  
average  $h$

This means that if you have a random cost function, a quantum computer can not find the minimum in time less than  $N^{1/2}$

Apply to Adiabatic

Information Theory Result

$\Rightarrow$  Linear Algebra Result about gaps!

Is this a rigorous information theoretic proof of Anderson Localization?

There is no conclusion to be drawn about structured cost functions such as 3-SAT

# Attempts to demonstrate failure

Van Dam, Mosca, Vazirani - Non local cost function

Van Dam, Vazirani - Local cost function  
fixed by Path Change

Fisher, Reichardt

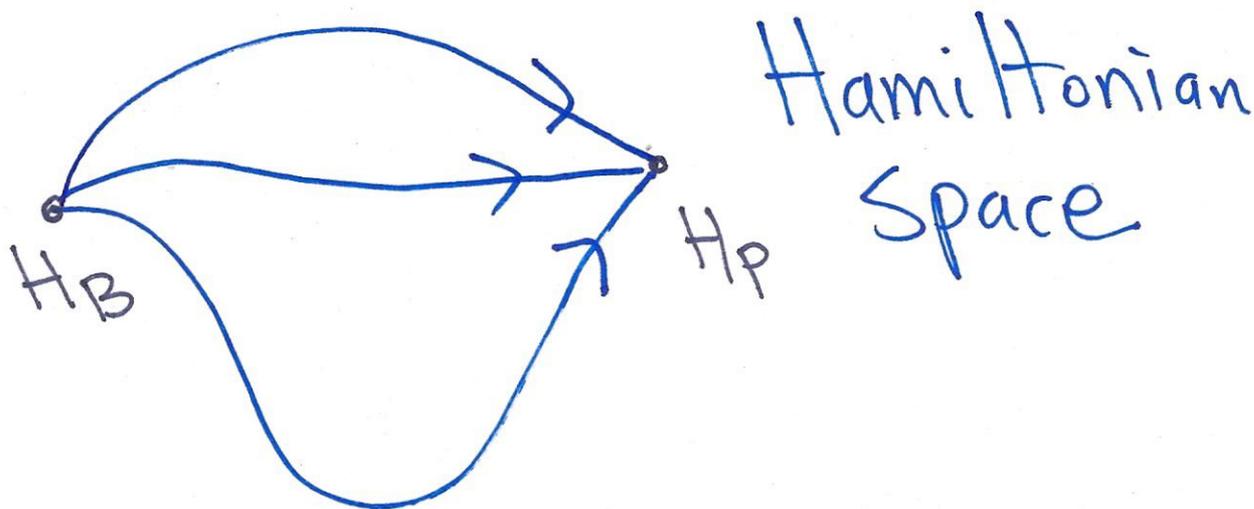


Random couplings

$T \sim C\sqrt{n}$  Path Change?

# Path Change

$$H = (1-s)H_B + sH_P + s(1-s)H_{\text{EXTRA}}$$



Run each instance many times with different paths. ☺

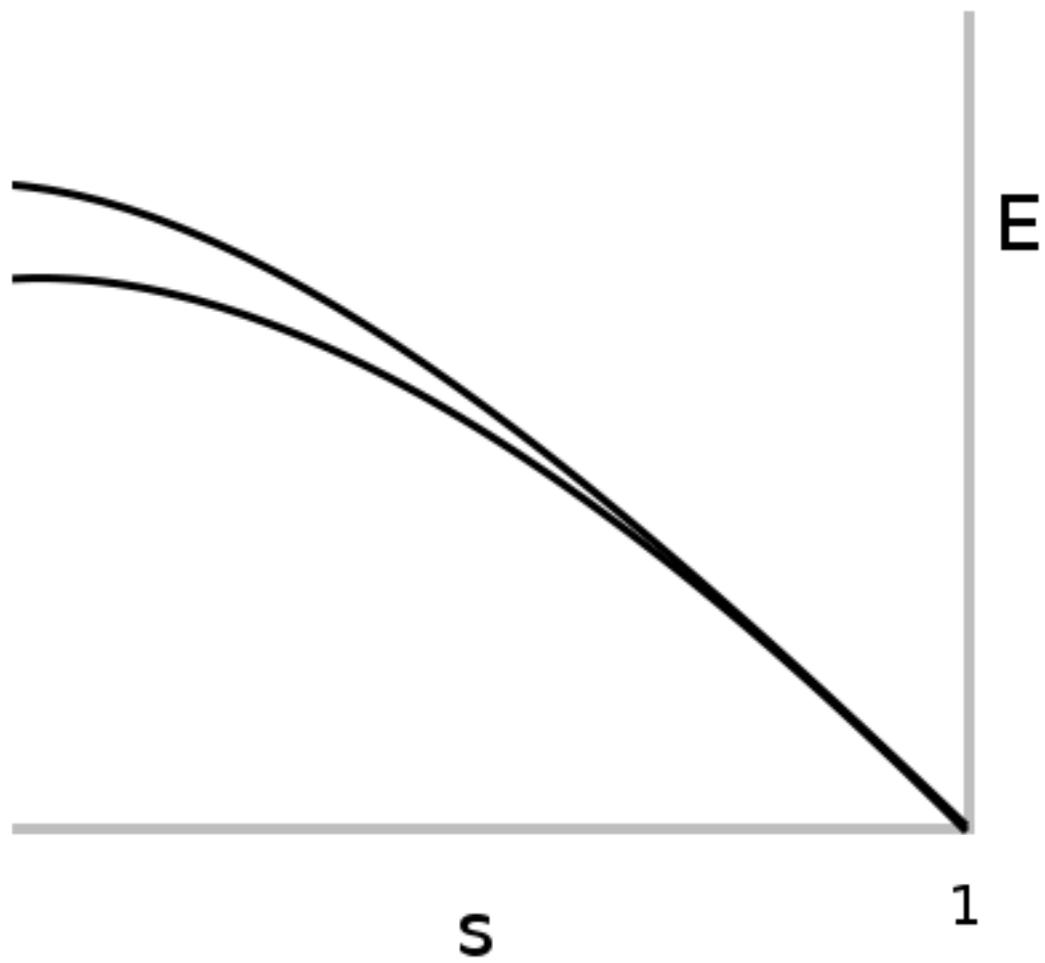
New way to make trouble

Start with a problem Hamiltonian  $H_p'$   
with two degenerate ground states

$|z_1\rangle$  and  $|z_2\rangle$

The strings  $z_1$  and  $z_2$  are far apart in  
Hamming weight

$$H'(s) = (1-s)H_B + sH_p'$$



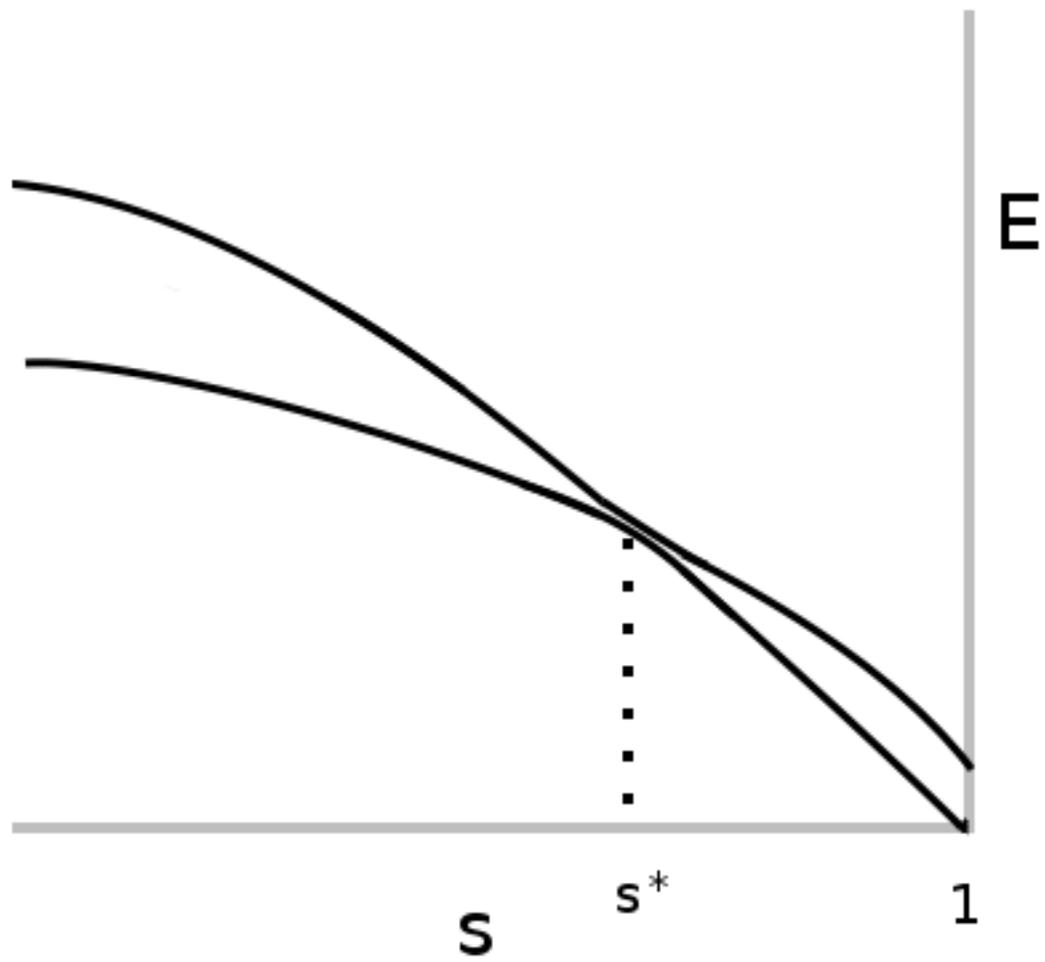
Suppose the lower curve approaches  $|z_1\rangle$   
Add a single clause that penalizes  $z_1$

$$H_p = H'_p + h$$

$h$  penalizes  $z_1$ , but not  $z_2$

$$H(s) = (1-s)H_B + sH_p$$

Expect to get a tiny gap!



Generate this type of instance

## Double Planes

3-SAT Each clause does not like one of the eight possible assignments of the 3 bits

Randomly pick clauses which do not like

001  
010  
011  
100  
101  
110

The Strings  
and

00000000  
11111111

will always satisfy

Add enough clauses and these will be the only winners! 7

The ground state for values of  $S$  near 1 will approach either  $|00000\rangle$  or  $|11111\rangle$ . Suppose it is  $|00000\rangle$ . Add a clause which penalizes 000 on the first 3 bits.

This creates the situation outlined earlier.

For  $S$  near 1 we can write

$$H = H_p + \lambda V \quad V = - \sum_{j=1}^n \sigma_x^{(j)}$$

$\lambda$  small

We will use low order perturbation Theory to locate the near cross

$$H = H_p + \lambda V$$

$$H_p |z\rangle = E_p(z) |z\rangle \quad (\lambda=0)$$

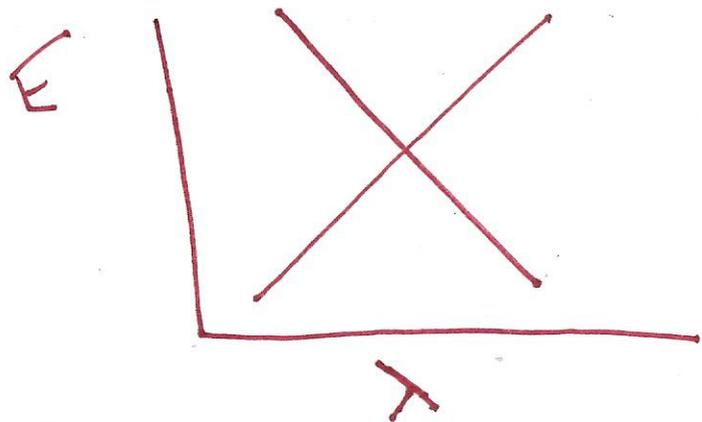
Ground state at  $\lambda=0$  is  $|\bar{z}\rangle$   $E_p(\bar{z}) < E_p(z)$

Ground state for general  $\lambda$

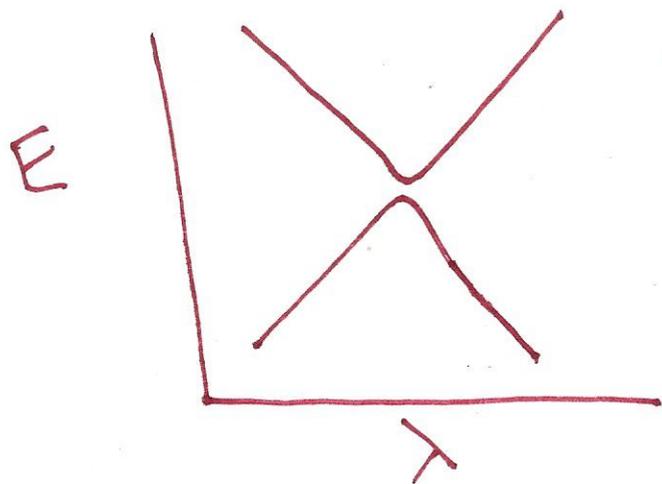
$$H(\lambda) |g\rangle = E_g(\lambda) |g\rangle$$

$$E_g(\lambda) = E_p(\bar{z}) + \lambda \langle \bar{z} | V | \bar{z} \rangle - \lambda^2 \sum_{z \neq \bar{z}} \frac{|\langle z | V | \bar{z} \rangle|^2}{E_p(z) - E_p(\bar{z})} + \dots$$

Usually perturbation theory is not valid at a near cross

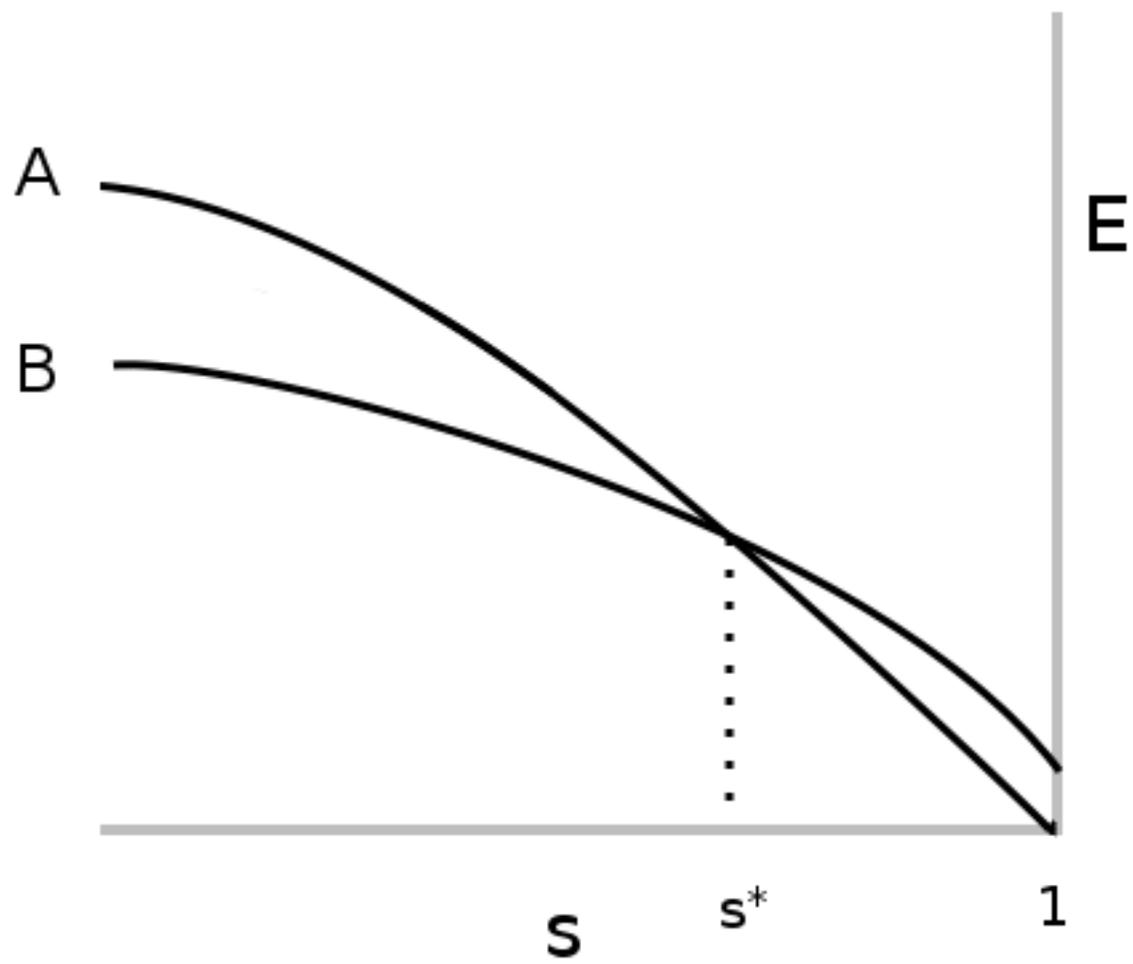


Ground state energy is not an analytic function of  $\lambda$



Perturbation theory does not work near the cross

Suppose 
$$H = \begin{bmatrix} H_A(s) & 0 \\ 0 & H_B(s) \end{bmatrix}$$



It takes  $n$  powers of  $V = - \sum_{j=1}^n \sigma_x^{(j)}$

to connect  $|00000\rangle$  to  $|11111\rangle$

Low orders can be used to get cross.

$$E_L(\lambda) = \lambda^2 \epsilon_L^{(2)} + \dots$$

$$E_U(\lambda) = 1 + \lambda^2 \epsilon_U^{(2)} + \dots$$

Cross occurs at  $\lambda^2 (\epsilon_L^{(2)} - \epsilon_U^{(2)}) = 1$

$\epsilon_L^{(2)}$  and  $\epsilon_U^{(2)}$  are of order  $n$  but

the difference is  $\Theta(n^{1/2})$

$$\lambda = \Theta\left(\frac{1}{n^{1/4}}\right)$$

$$S^* = 1 - \Theta\left(\frac{1}{n^{1/4}}\right)$$

The cross occurs because

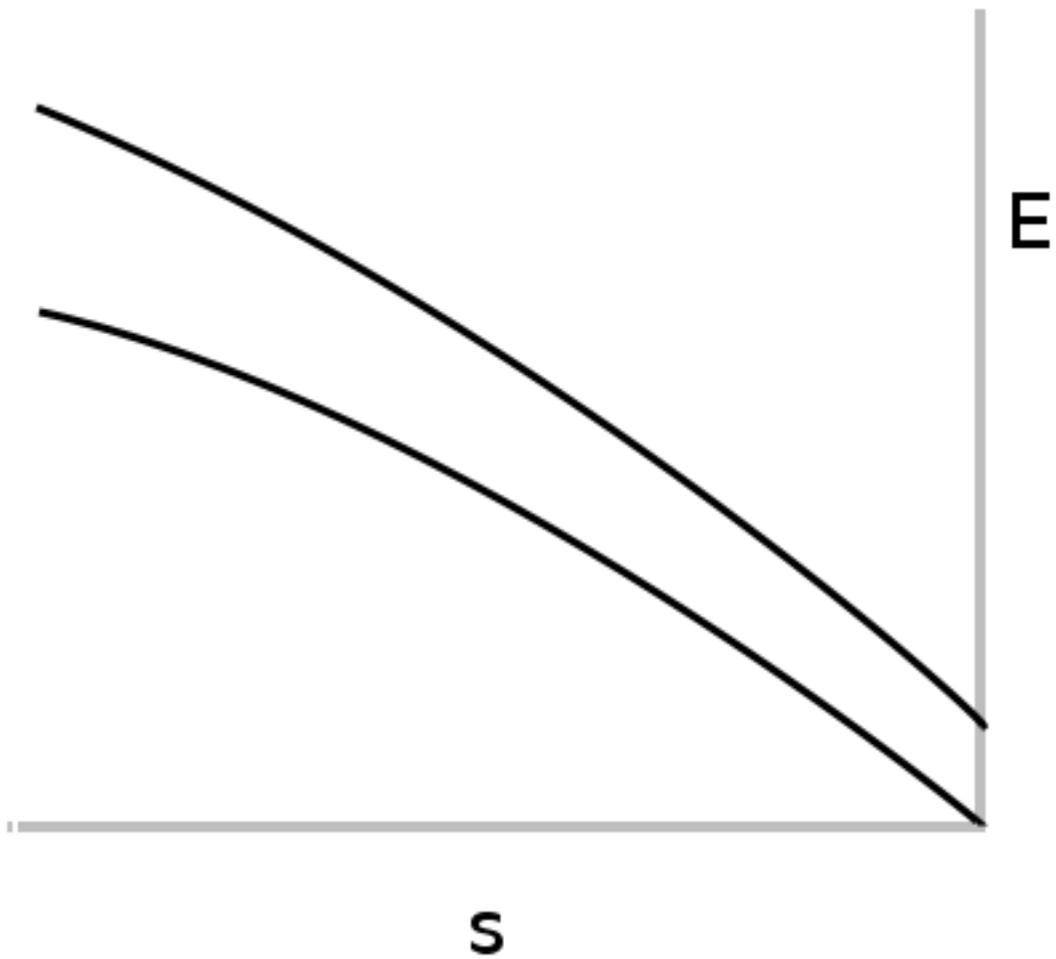
$$E_U^{(z)} < E_L^{(z)}$$

$$E_L^{(z)} = - \sum_{z \neq \bar{z}} \frac{|\langle z | V | \bar{z} \rangle|^2}{E_p(z) - E_p(\bar{z})}$$

n terms, only fires if z differs from  $\bar{z}$   
by a single bit flip

Randomize the path and get

$$E_U^{(z)} > E_L^{(z)}$$



We used  $V = - \sum_{j=1}^n \sigma_x^{(j)}$

Try  $V = - \sum_{j=1}^n C_j \sigma_x^{(j)}$

each  $C_j = .5$  or  $1.5$  with equal probability

This gives a substantial probability

that  $E_U^{(2)} > E_L^{(2)}$

To test these ideas we did a numerical simulation

Continuous Time Quantum \*  
Monte Carlo

~ 600 processors

~ few months

\* Not a quantum computer!  
Classical algorithm for studying  
quantum systems

$$H = H_0 + \lambda V$$

$H_0$  is diagonal in the  $z$  basis

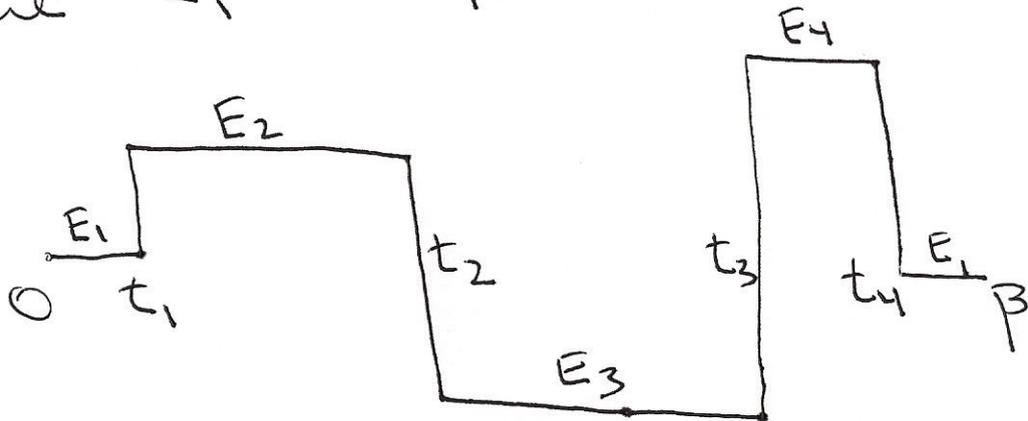
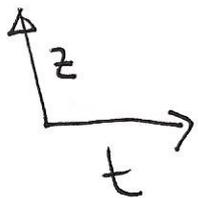
$V$  is purely off diagonal  $\langle z|V|z' \rangle \leq 0$  Stochastic

Math  $Z(\beta) = \text{Tr} [e^{-\beta H}]$

$$= \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} (-\lambda)^m \sum_{z_1 \dots z_m} \langle z_1|V|z_m \rangle \langle z_m|V|z_{m-1} \rangle \dots \langle z_2|V|z_1 \rangle$$

$$\times \int_0^{\beta} dt_m \int_0^{t_m} dt_{m-1} \dots \int_0^{t_2} dt_1 e^{-(E_1 t_1 + E_2(t_2 - t_1) + \dots + E_m(\beta - t_m))}$$

where  $E_i = \langle z_i|H_0|z_i \rangle$



$$\text{path } z(t) = \begin{cases} z_1 & 0 \leq t < t_1 \\ z_2 & t_1 \leq t < t_2 \\ \vdots & \end{cases}$$

Probability (measure) of a path

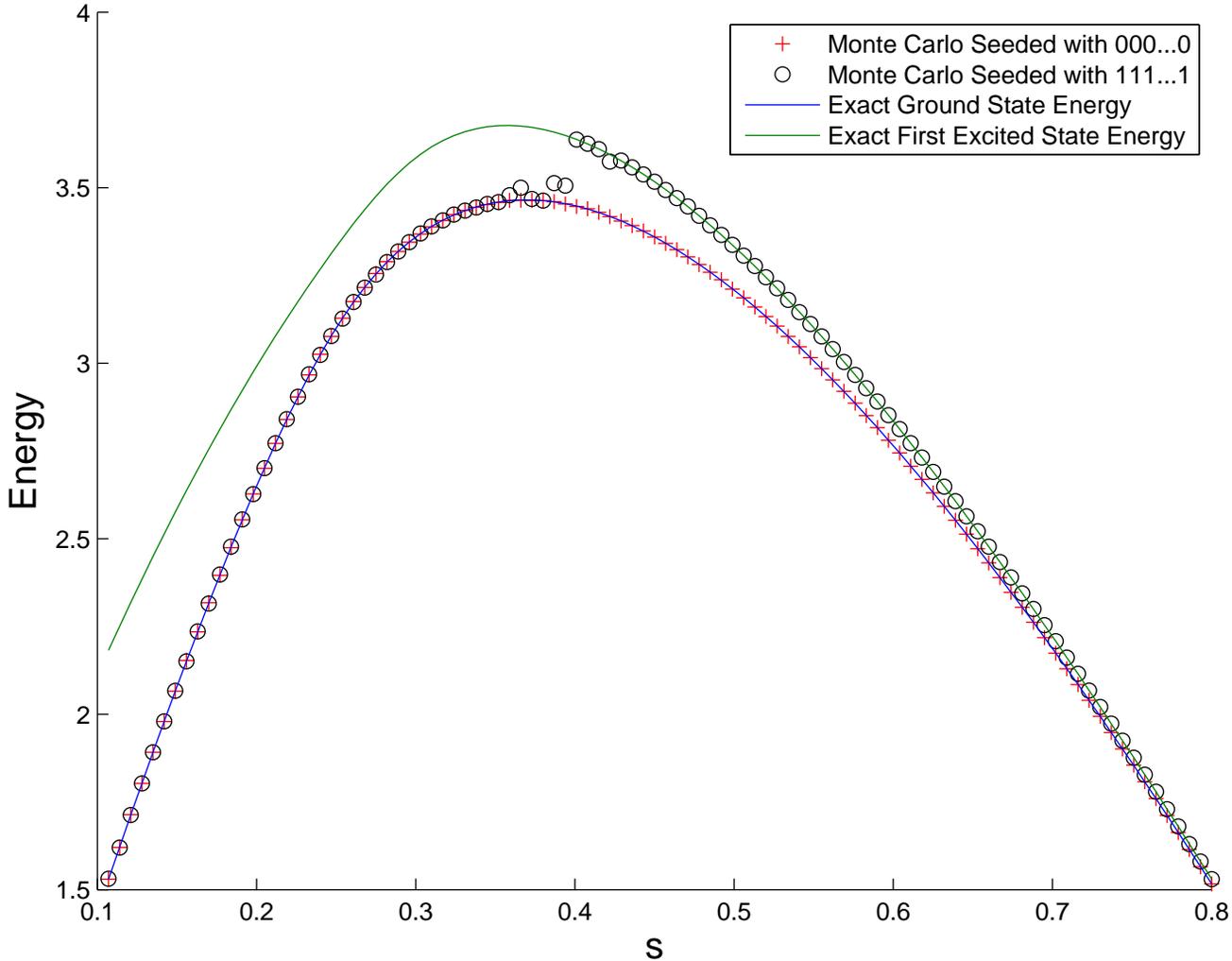
$$g(z) = \frac{1}{Z(\beta)} (-\lambda)^m \langle z_1 | V | z_m \rangle \langle z_m | V | z_{m-1} \rangle \cdots \langle z_2 | V | z_1 \rangle$$

$$\cdot e^{-(E_1 t_1 + E_2 (t_2 - t_1) + \dots + E_m (\beta - t_m))}$$

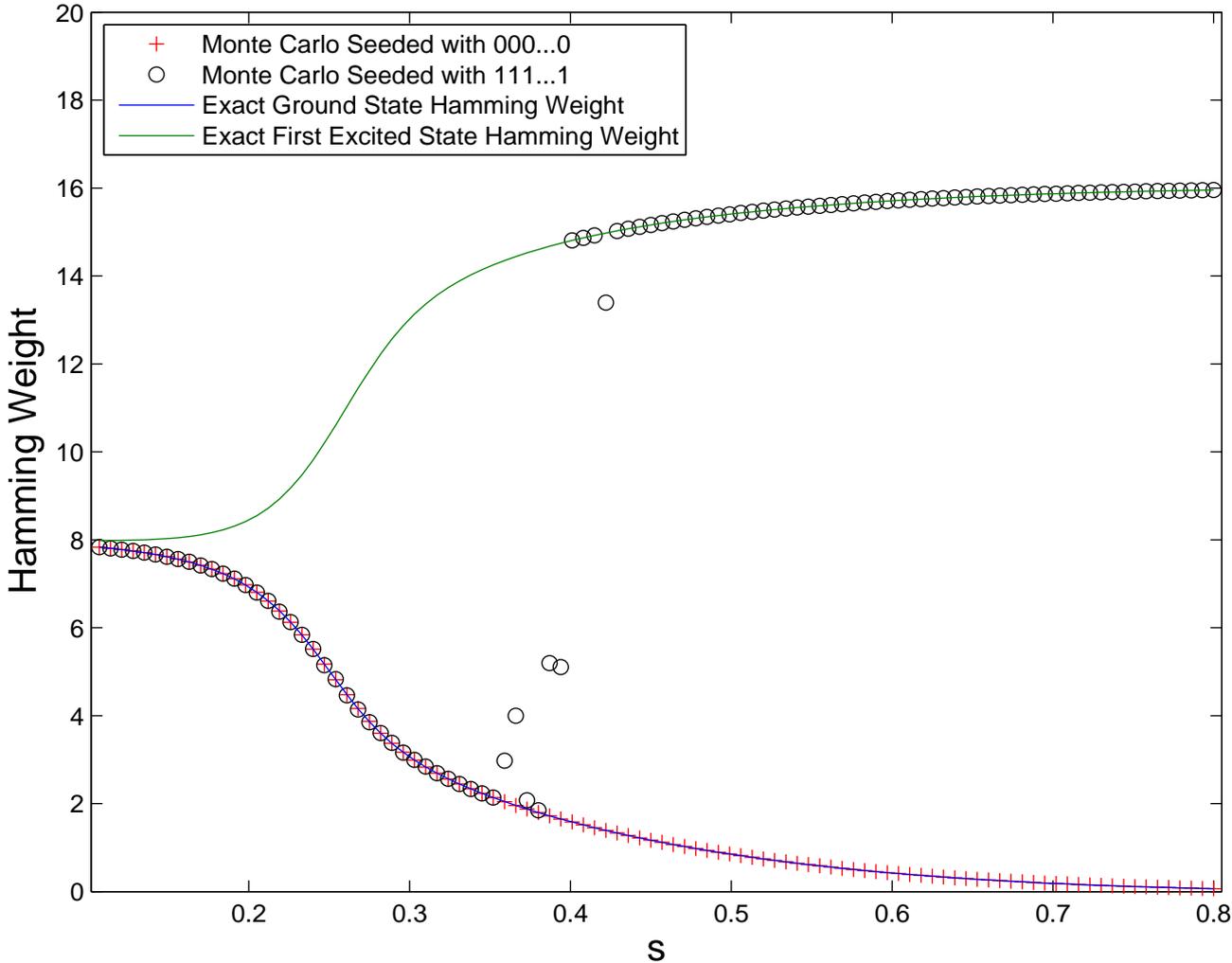
$$dt_1 dt_2 \dots dt_m$$

We can efficiently sample from these paths  
and do continuous time quantum Monte Carlo  
No Trotter Error      Only Statistical Error

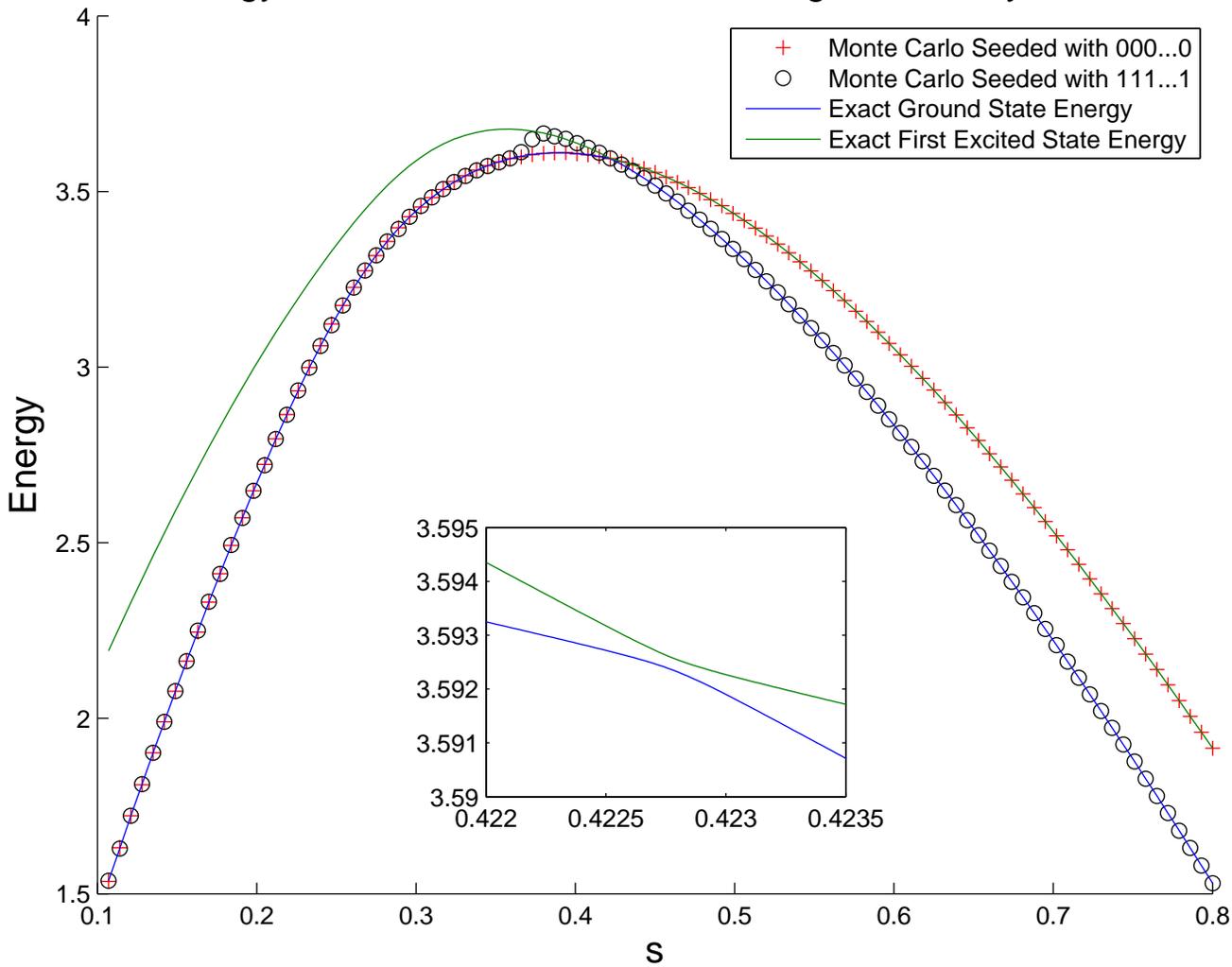
# Energy of a 16 Bit Instance with 2 Planted Solutions



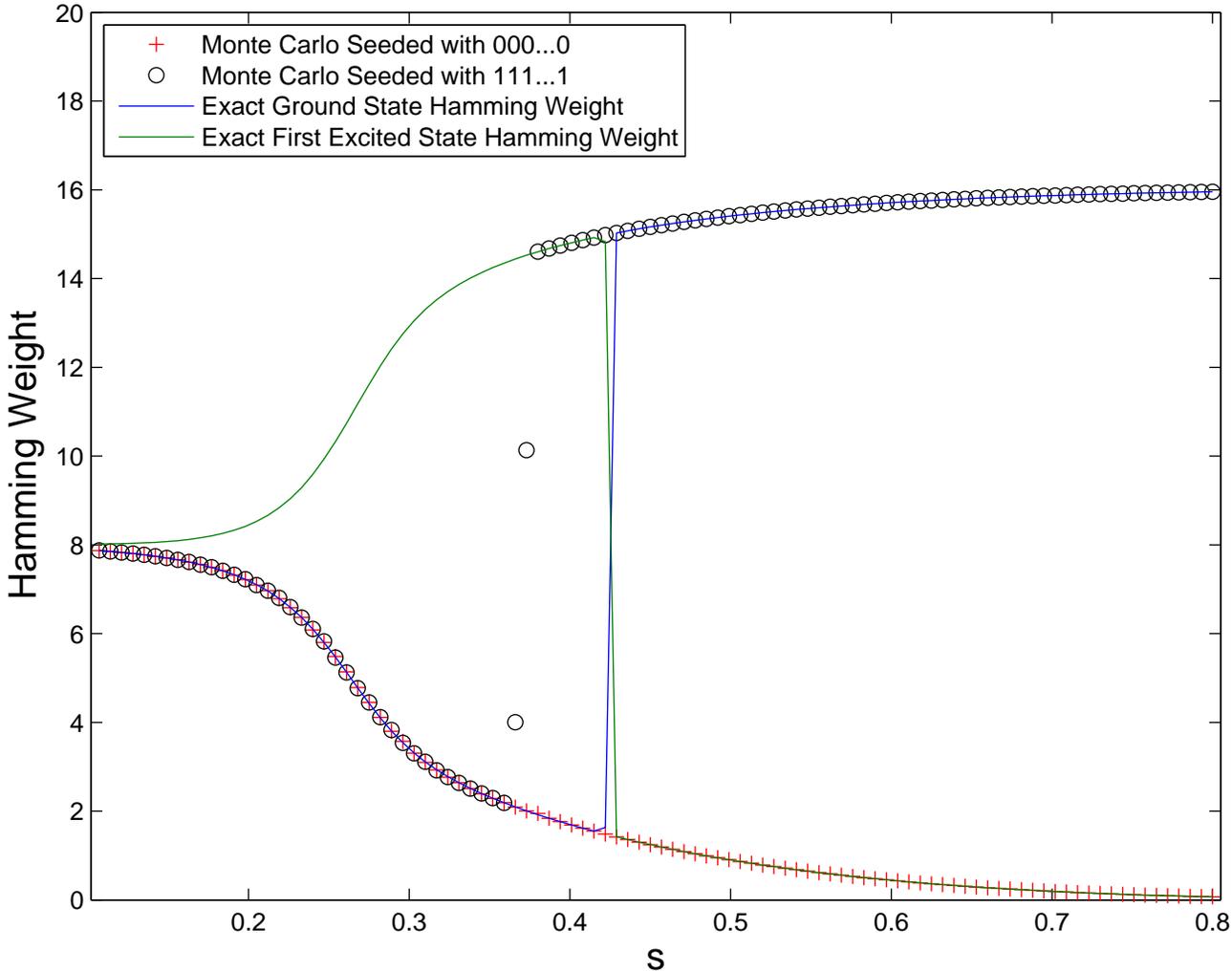
# Hamming Weight of a 16 Bit Instance with 2 Planted Solutions



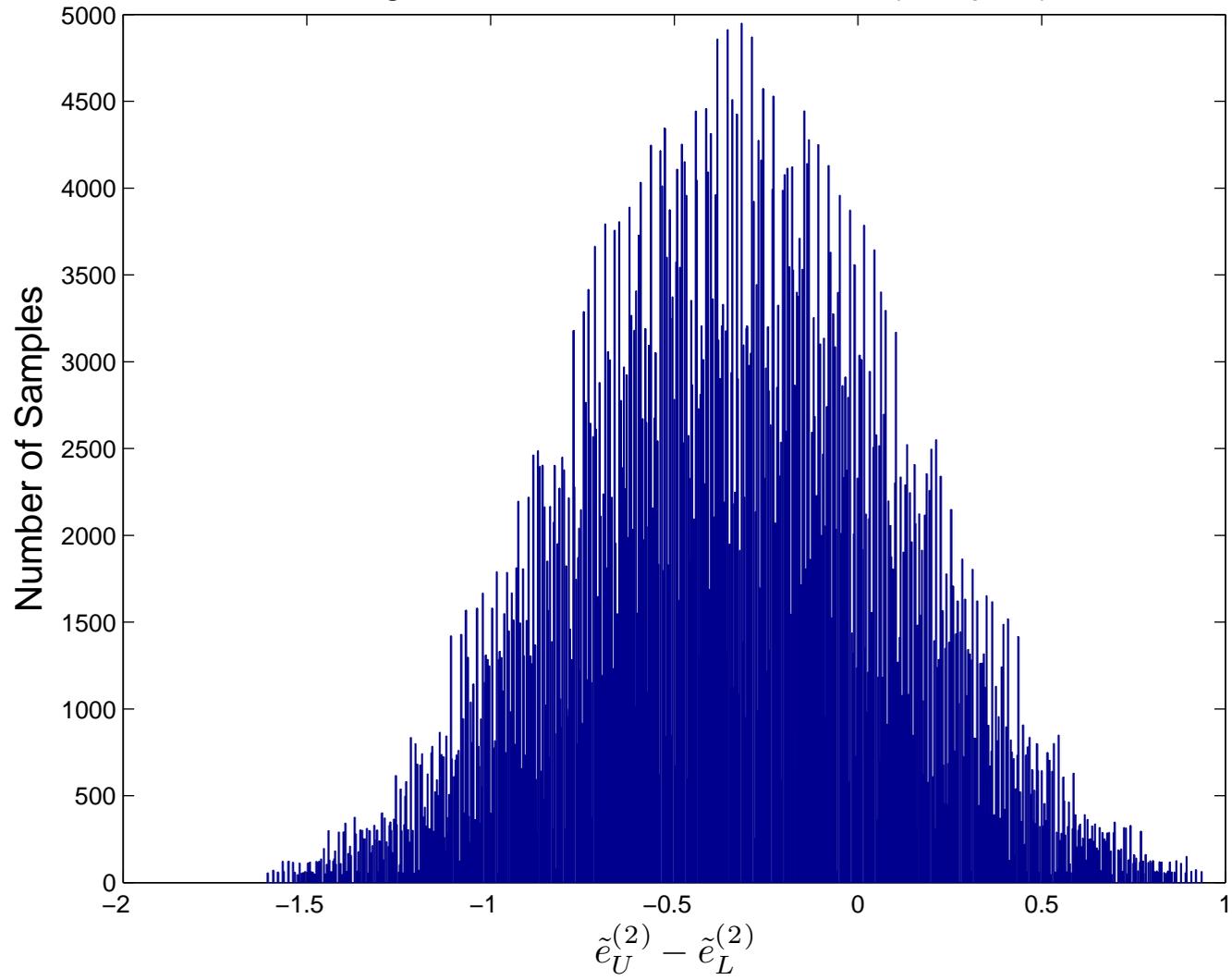
# Energy of a 16 Bit Instance After Adding the Penalty Clause



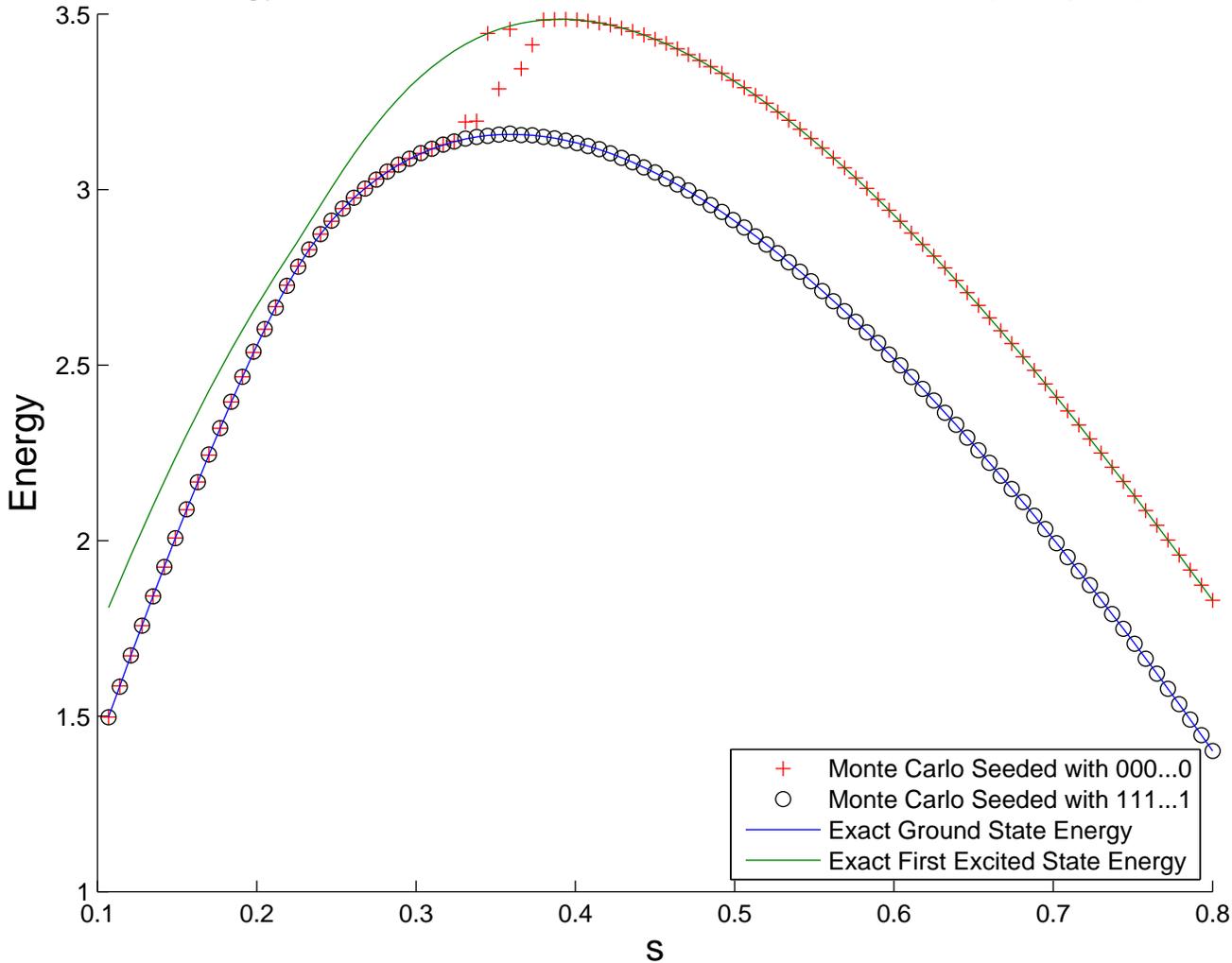
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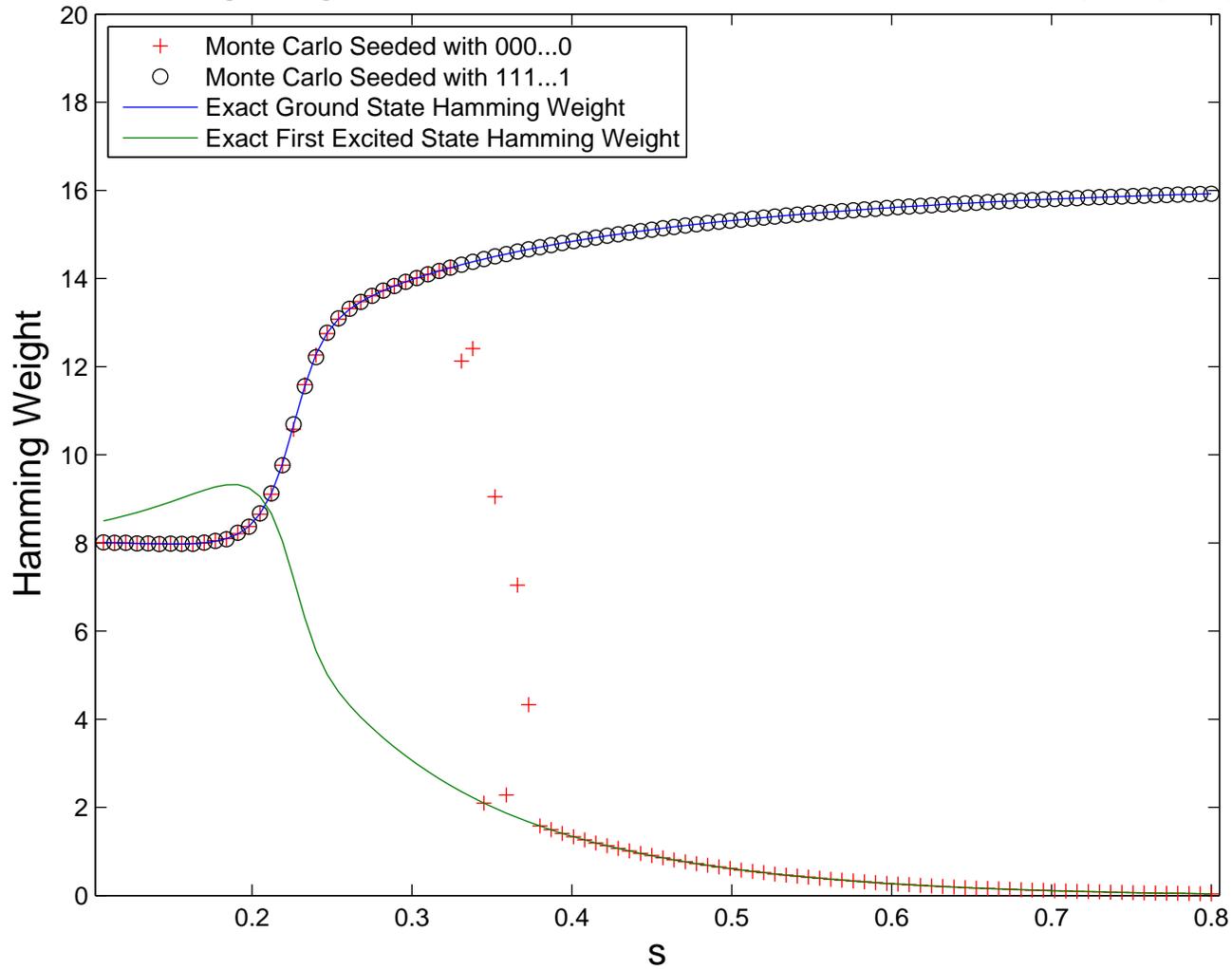
# Histogram of Curvature Differences (16 spins)



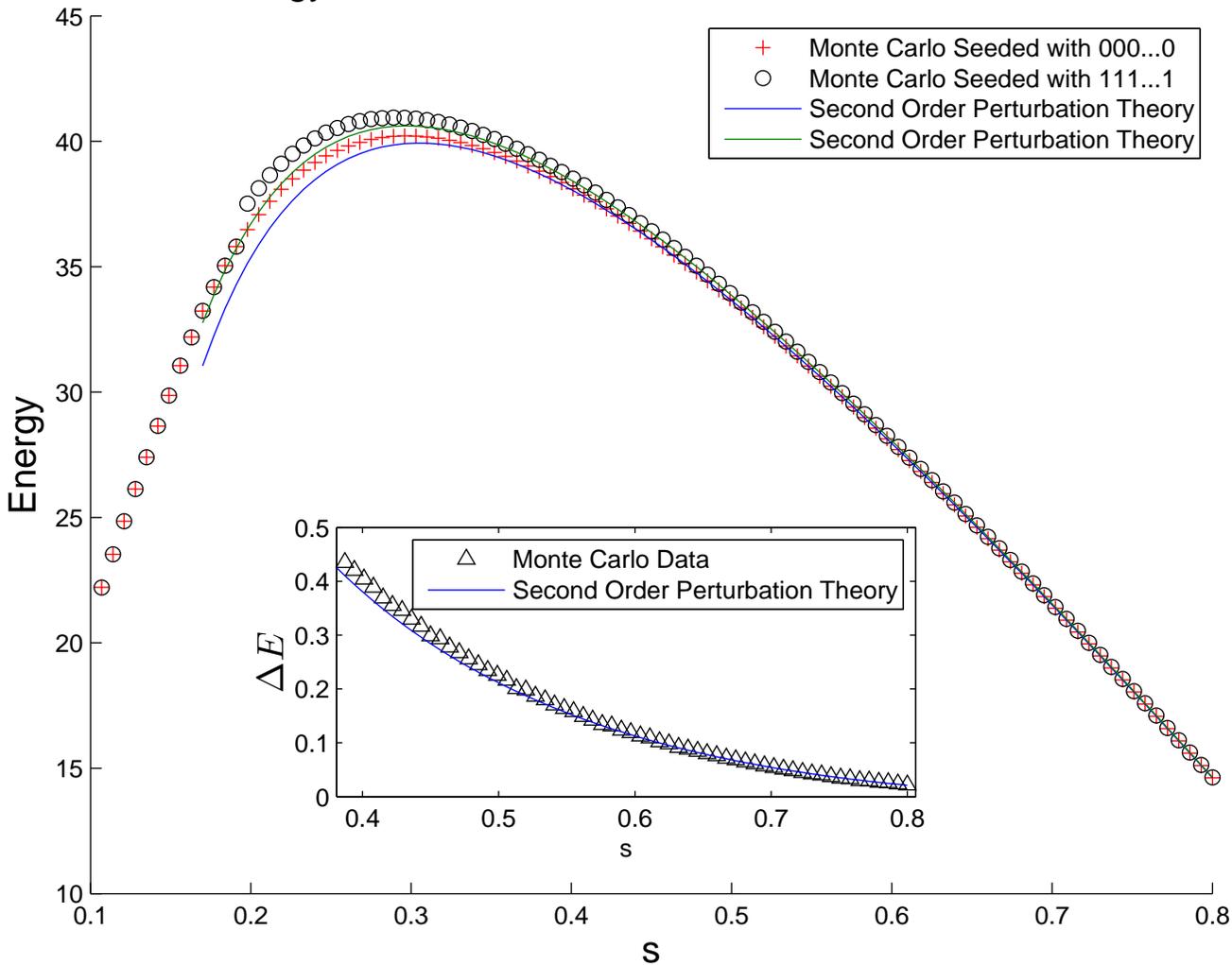
# Energy with Choice of HB that Removes a Cross (16 spins)



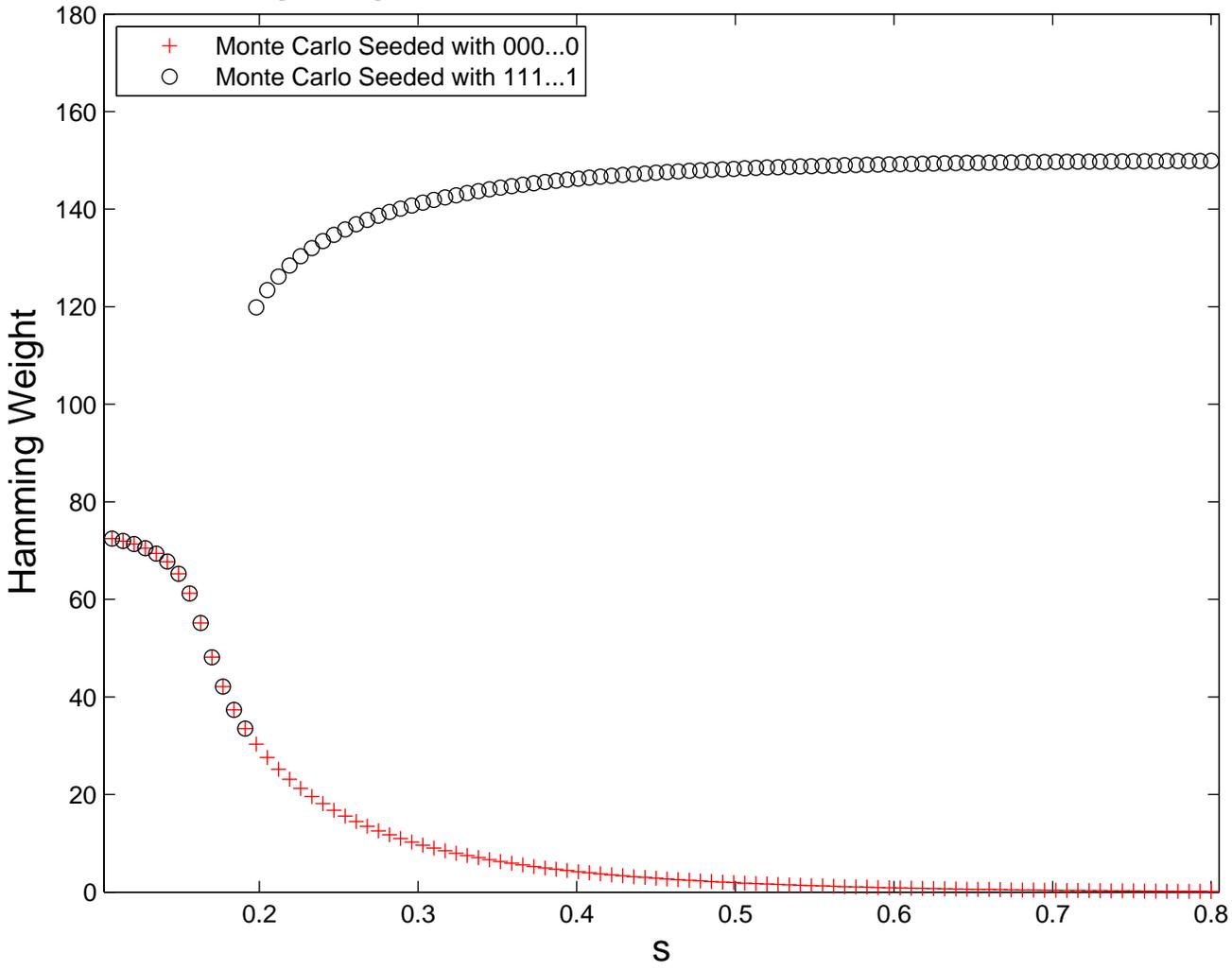
# Hamming Weight with Choice of HB that Removes a Cross (16 spins)



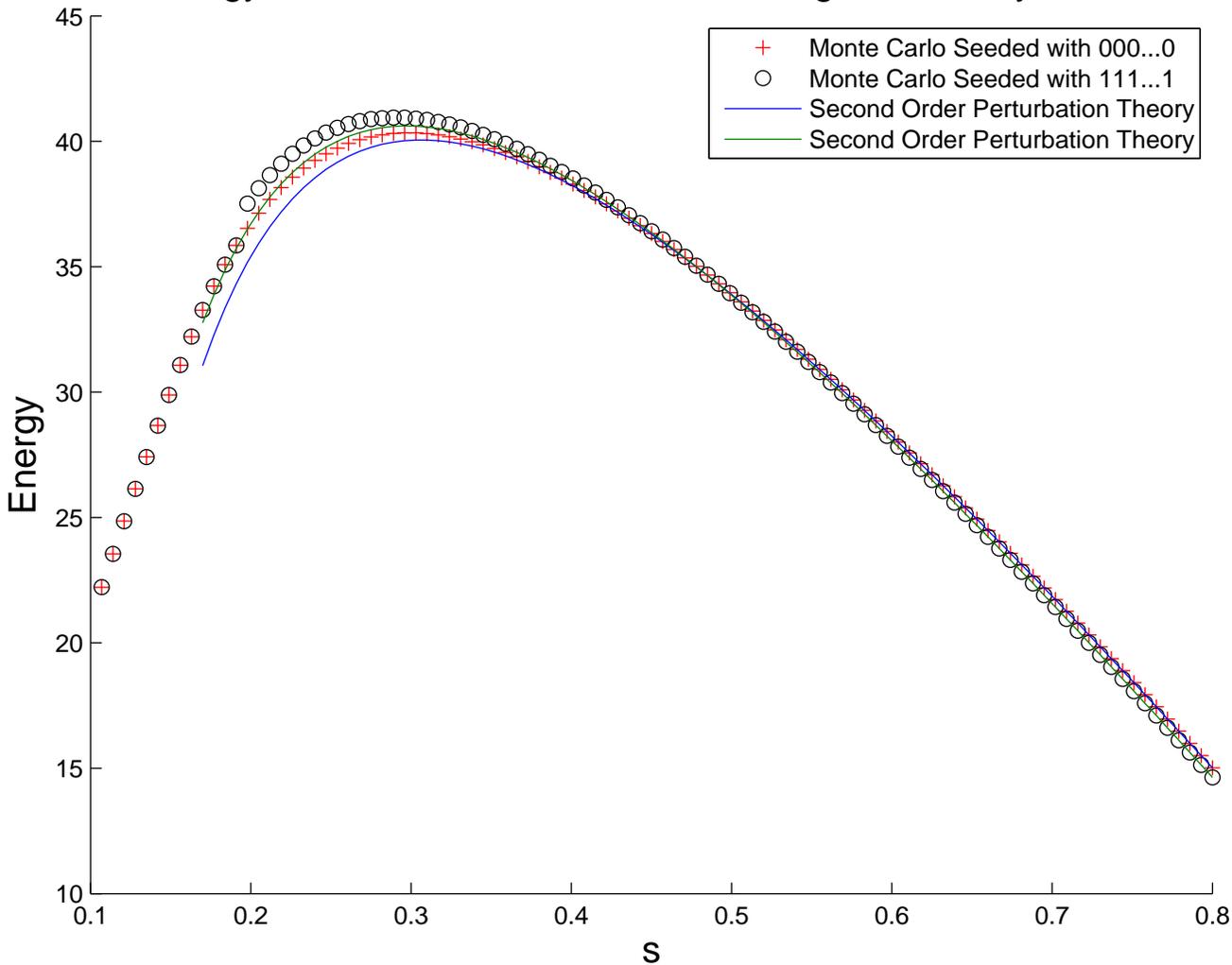
# Energy of a 150 Bit Instance with 2 Planted Solutions



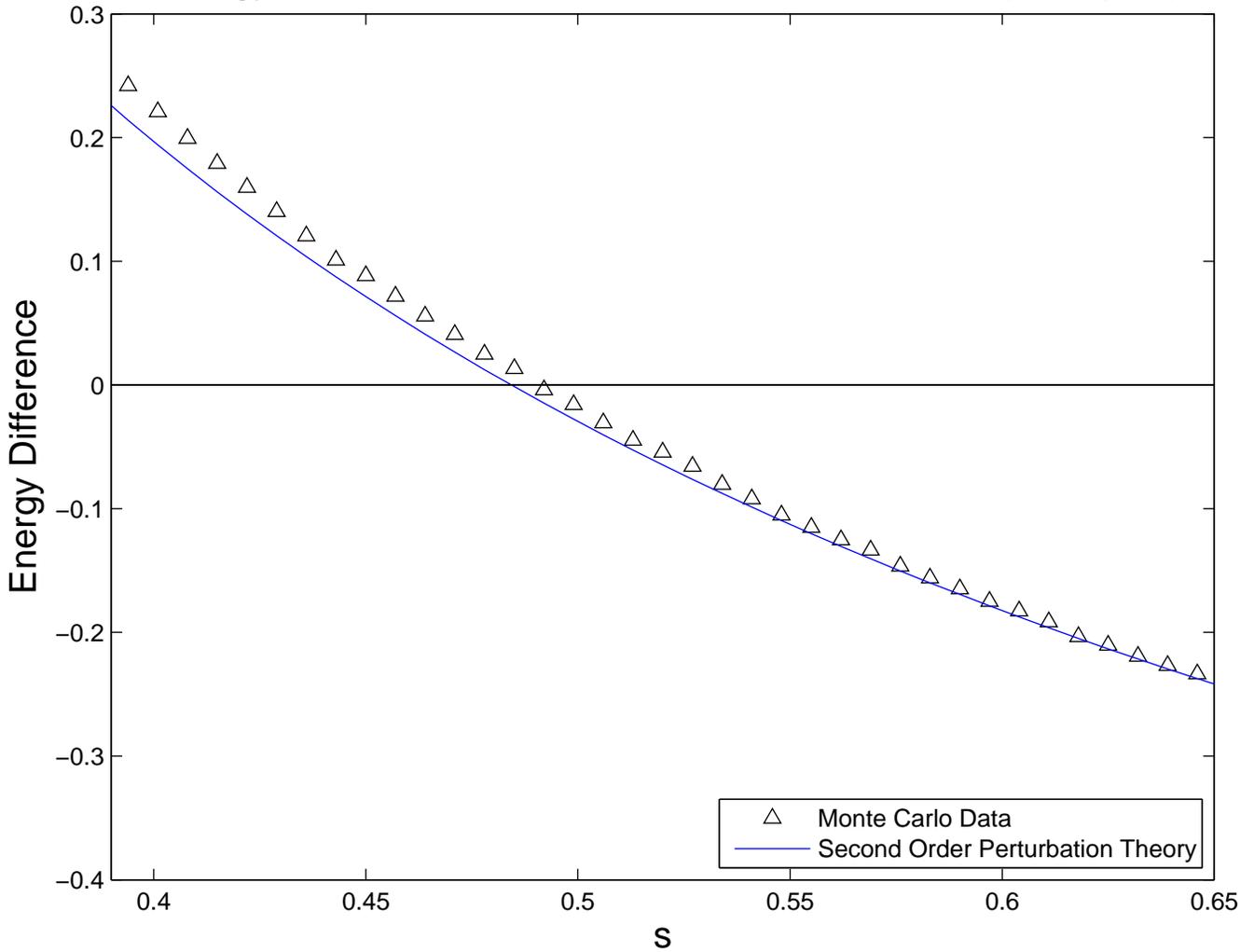
# Hamming Weight of a 150 Bit Instance with 2 Planted Solutions



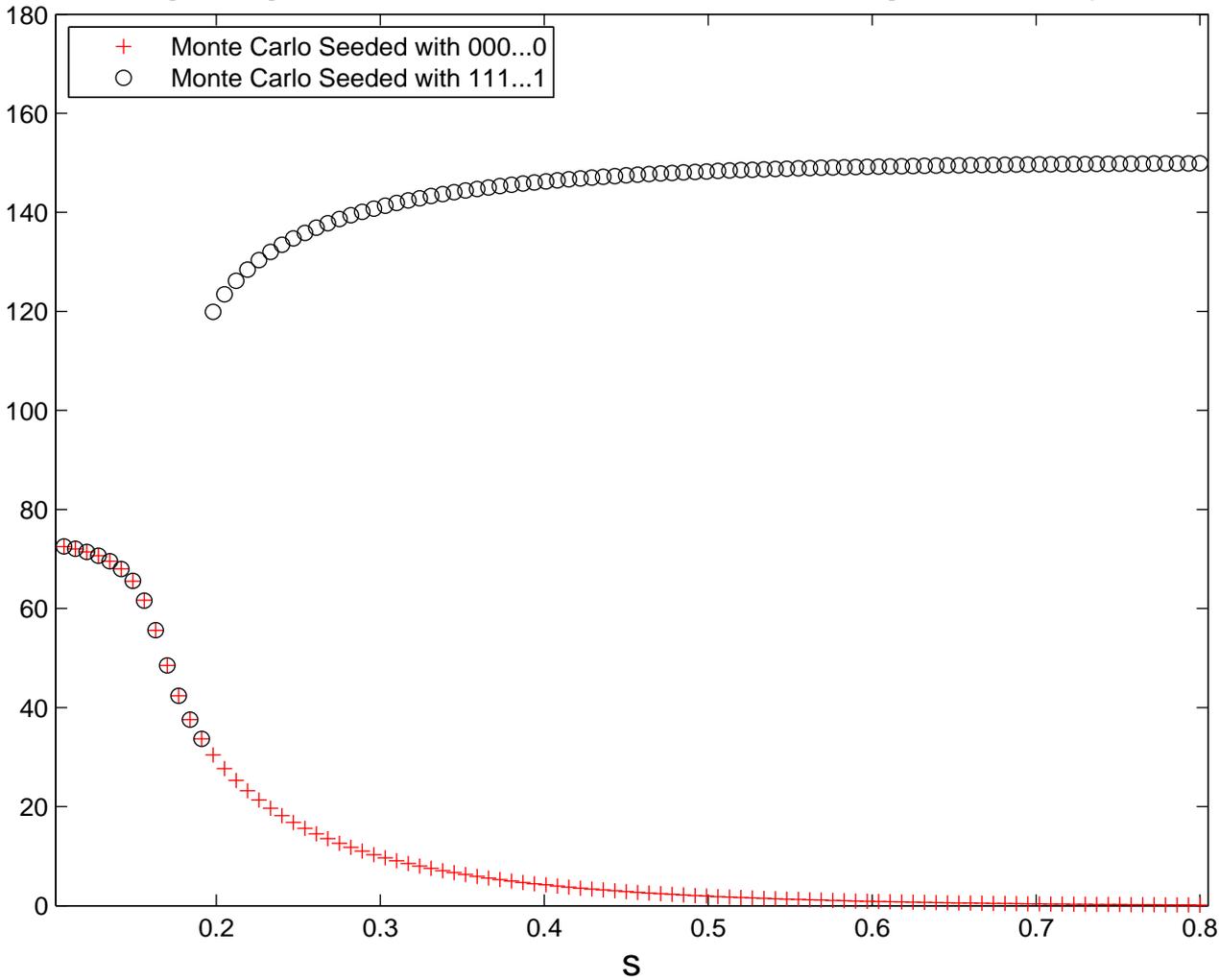
# Energy of a 150 Bit Instance After Adding the Penalty Clause



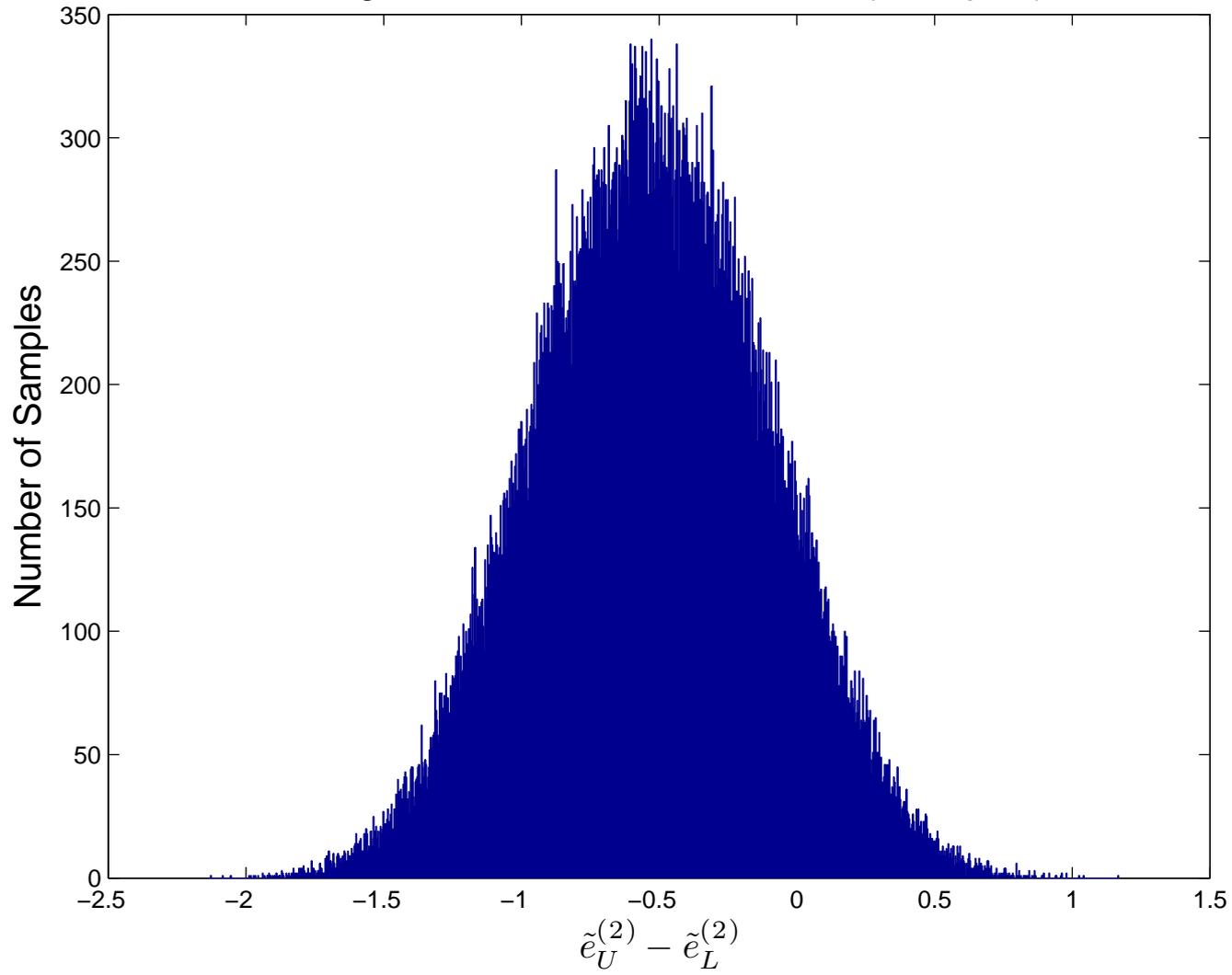
Energy Difference between the Two Lowest Levels (150 spins)



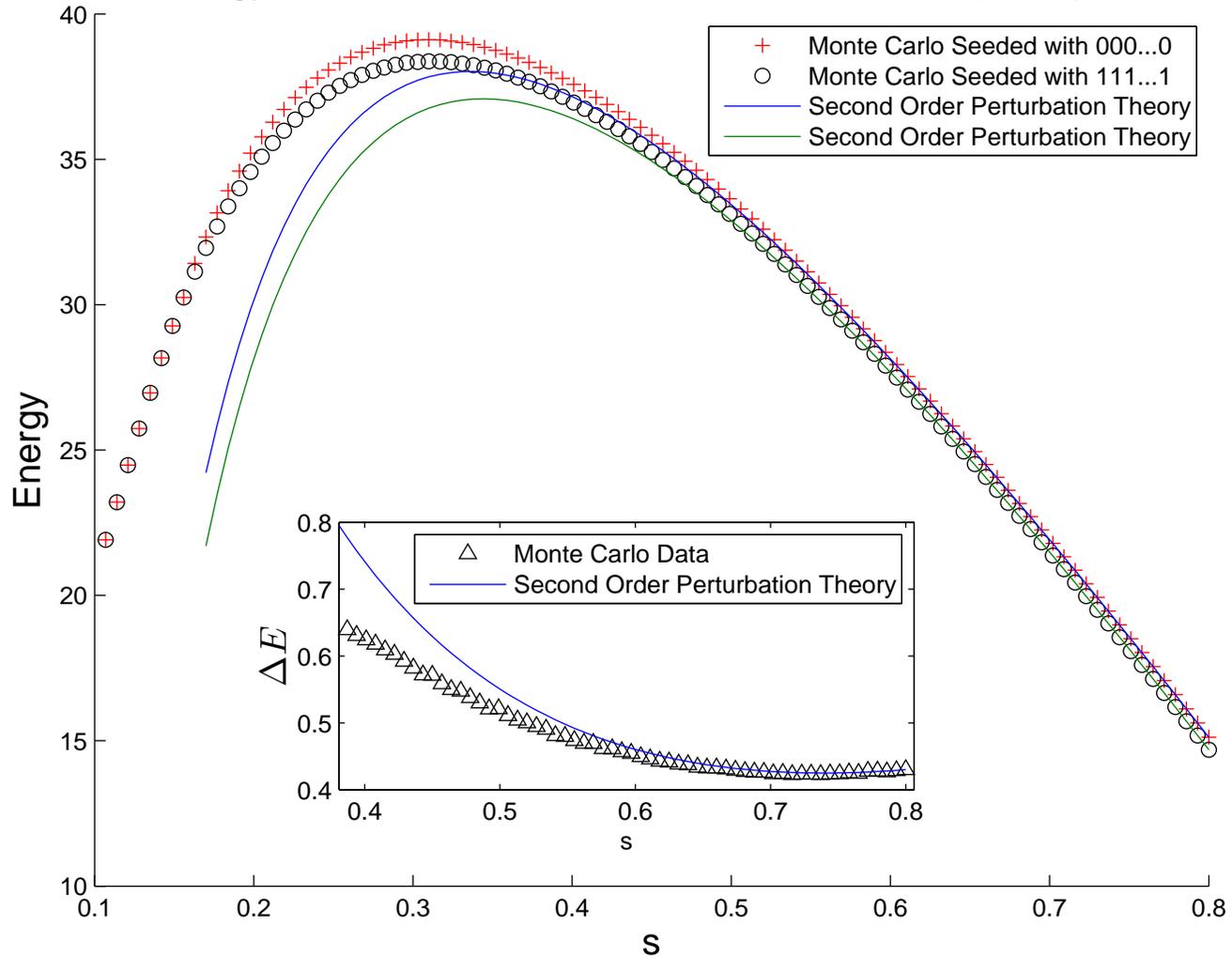
# Hamming Weight of a 150 Bit Instance After Adding the Penalty Clause



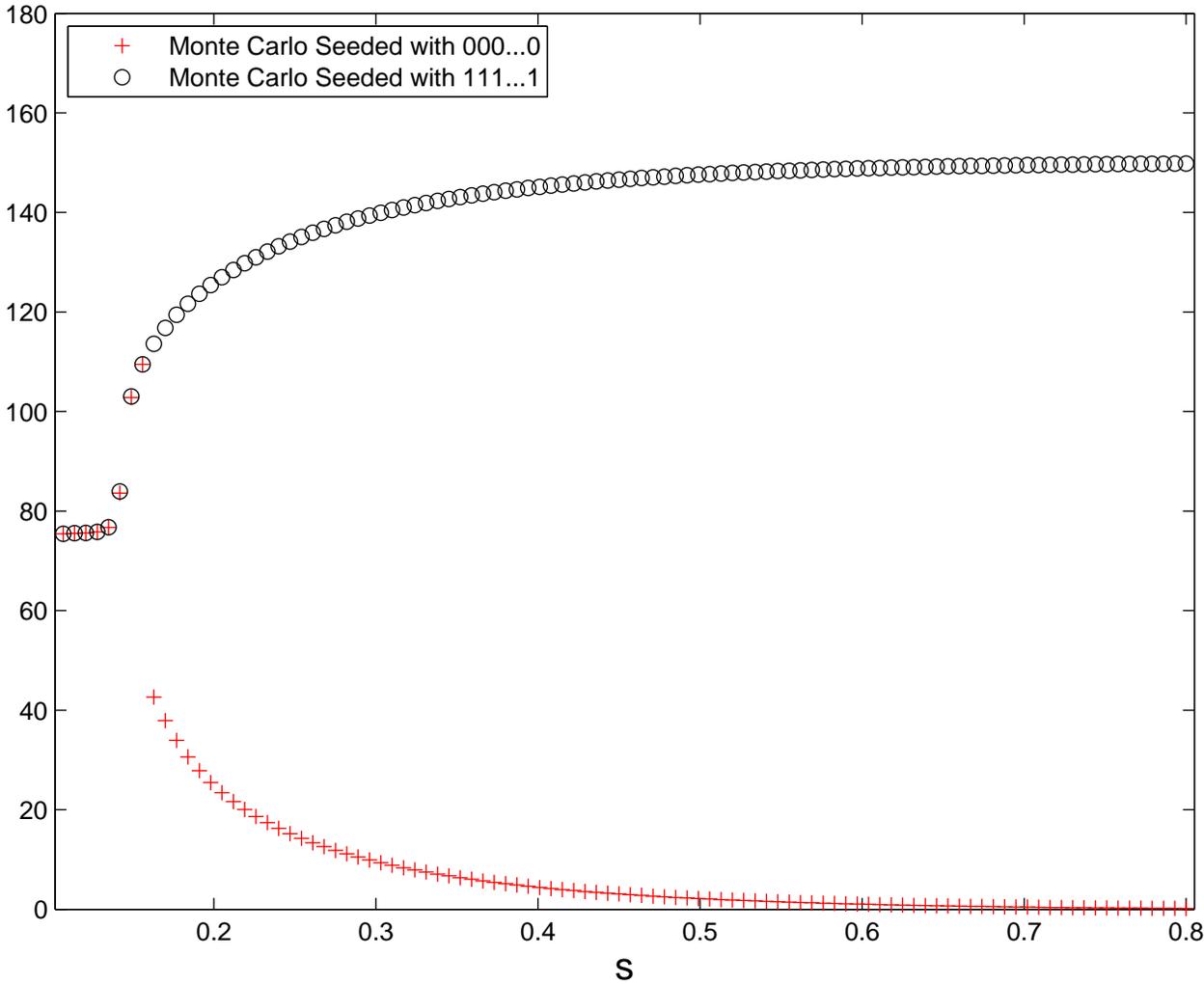
Histogram of Curvature Differences (150 spins)



# Energy with Choice of HB that Removes a Cross (150 spins)



# Hamming Weight with Choice of HB that Removes a Cross (150 spins)



Altshuler Krovi Roland

studied essentially the same issue!

They did not consider path change.

Js

Unique Satisfying Assignment

k other assignments which are far from the winner which violate few clauses

In this case path change will succeed with

$$\text{probability} > \frac{1}{\text{poly}(k)}$$

What if k is exponential in n ???